(b) and (c) A study has been carried out jointly by the Scientists of Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation, Jodhpur and Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jodhpur. The results of the study have been presented in the article titled "New Findings of the Course of River Sarasvati,", published in the Journal of Indian Society of Remote Sensing. The authors have concluded as under.

"Clear signatures of palaeo channels on the satellite imagery in the form of a strong and powerful continuous drainage system in the NW region and occurrence of archaeological sites of Pre-Harappan, Harappan and Post Harappan age, beyond doubt indicate the existence of a mighty palaeo drainage system of Vedic Sarasvati river in this region. As observed from satellite imagery river Sarasvati flowed eastward more or less parallel to the river Indus and shifted its course within a .much narrower zone of less than 40 km. The major (western most) channel of river Sarasvati remained more or less constant and unchanged and is considered to be the actual Rig Vedic Sarasvati river. The description and magnanimity of these channels also matches with the River Sarasvati described in the Vedic literature. From the prominence and width of the palaeo channels on the satellite data, supported with data from archaeological finds, age and quality of ground water, sediment type, etc., it is confirmed that river Sarasvati had its major course through present day river Ghaggar and further passing through parts of Jaisalmer and adjoining region in Pakistan and finally discharging into the Rann of Kachchh. A major palaeo channel of the river passes through Jaisalmer district while a considerable part of the river drained further, inside Pakistan."

Pachnada dam

†1655. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has turned down project for construction of Pachnada dam in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the details regarding the budget sanctioned so far for this project and the time by which this project is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The proposed Panchnad Dam is located below the confluence of 5 rivers viz. Yamuna Chambal, Kunwari, Sindh and Pahuj. The catchment area of Chambal, Kunwari and Sindh lies in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Apart from Uttar Pradesh, the scheme involves submergence of .land in Madhya Pradesh. Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) took an inter-state meeting with the officials of the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 13.06.2007 in respect of Panchnad project. CWC requested Uttar Pradesh to provide a copy of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this project to all concerned States/Departments. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan States were requested to give their comments on the DPR within a month. Subsequently, the Government of Madhya Pradesh intimated CWC in December, 2008 that they do

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

not agree to the above project proposal. Therefore, it has not been possible to take up this project for appraisal. Further, irrigation is a state subject and irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Governments from their own resources as per their own priorities.

Rehabilitation of people

1656. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat have submitted their requisite action taken report to the Government for rehabilitation of the people affected by Narmada Sardar Sarovar Project; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the NCA for granting permission for building piers of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP) and Gujarat (GOG) had submitted the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) for the present Sardar Sarovar Dam height i.e., EL 121.92m related to the building of the piers of dam. However, the Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has yet not submitted the ATRs concerning completion of resettlement works related to building of the piers of the dam.

(b) The proposal of GOG and GOMP for the construction of spillway piers to their full height and bridge and installation of gates (to be kept in raised position) was discussed in 73rd meeting of the Resettlement & Rehabilitation Sub-Group of NCA held on 9.2.2009 wherein, the sub-group has decided that the Committee constituted for the consultation with Grievance Redressal Authorities (GRAs) may expeditiously undertake consultation with the GRAs on the above proposal. The State Governments were also requested to submit requisite facts and data related to the present proposal alongwith the status of R&R at present level of dam i.e., EL 121.92 m to their GRAs and also to the NCA Secretariat.

Meanwhile, on the request of GOMP and GOG, the above proposal was further discussed in the 81st meeting of NCA held on 16.3.2009, wherein, it was decided by the Authority to obtain legal opinion of the Attorney General for India on whether permission for construction can be given by NCA without following the procedure given in the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 18.10.2000 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994. In compliance to the decision of the NCA, the Ministry of Water Resources has submitted proposal to the Ministry of Law for soliciting opinion of Learned Attorney General for India in the matter.

The Ministry of Water Resources has received "Opinion" of the Attorney General for India in the second week of November 2009. The same is being placed in the next meeting of the NCA for deciding further course of action.